

SHEFFER JEANNE M
79 MONTEVIDEO 685

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-31 ISO-00 FA-05 CIAF-00 INR-10 NSAF-00 PA-01

BIB-01 /033 W

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R 021017Z MAR 79

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0278

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

USICA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 0685

E.O. 12065: GDS 3-1-85 (SEAW, DAVID G.) OR-P

TAGS: SFUM, UY

SUBJECT: CALLS FOR PRESS FREEDOM MEET GOV TOLERATION (U)

REF: (A) MONTEVIDEO 405 (P) MONTEVIDEO 440 (C) MONTEVIDEO 540

1. (U) EMBASSY HAS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (REFTELS) SIGNIFICANT RECENT EDITORIALS IN ALL THREE MAJOR NATIONAL DAILIES AND INFLUENTIAL MONTHLY "BUSQUEDA" CALLING FOR RESTORATION OF PRESS FREEDOM IN URUGUAY. THEME HAS CONTINUED TO ENJOY FREQUENT REFERENCE AND, ESPECIALLY IN CASE OF "EL DIA", IS BEING GRADUALLY BROADENED TO INCLUDE DEFENSE OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND DISCREET--PUT NONETHELESS CLEARCUT--CALLS FOR RETURN OF THEIR FREEDOM TO OPERATE. THE VERY PHENOMENON OF INCREASING CALLS FOR PRESS FREEDOM PROVIDED "EL DIA" ON FEBRUARY 24 WITH THE CENTRAL THEME FOR ITS WEEK-IN-REVIEW SUPPLEMENT, "LA SEMANA DEL DIA". LATTER INCLUDED AN IMPRESSIVE MONTAGE OF PROMINENTLY IDENTIFIED CLIPPINGS FROM RECENT ISSUES OF "EL DIA", "EL PAIS" AND "LA MANANA", MAKING THE POINT THAT PRESS FREEDOM IS AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS LONG SINCE COME AND WHICH REQUIRES NO DEFENSE IN A CIVILIZED

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SOCIETY.

2. (C) "EL DIA", IN THE SAME SPREAD, NOTES EDITORIALY THE "COINCIDENCE" THAT ALL THREE MAJOR DAILIES HAVE PICKED UP THE THEME AT THE SAME TIME.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY J. M. ... DATE 7

PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

EXCIS

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B1 E

PARTICULARLY INTERESTING IS
EL DIA'S INTRODUCTION OF THE THEME OF POLITICAL PARTIES,
WHICH HAS FEATURED A LENGTHY AND OUTSPOKEN INTERVIEW OF THE
EMINENT URUGUAYAN CONSTITUTIONALIST JUSTINO JIMENEZ DE
ARCEHAGA. WE WILL BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE EXTENT
TO WHICH THIS APPARENT NEW OFFICIAL TOLERANCE IS ALLOWED TO

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DEVELOP, AND WHETHER IT RESULTS IN SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC
DISCUSSION OF THE VARIOUS ISSUES WHICH MUST BE RESOLVED IF
URUGUAY IS TO RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT.
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